

Please reject petition 04-160.

I have been an XM Radio subscriber for only about 2 months, but I am already a large proponent of the programming and variety that is offered on satellite radio.

I subscribed to XM Radio after becoming fed up with the content that was plaguing the FM and AM airwaves in Atlanta. In the mornings, it was nothing but "morning shows" where DJs sit around and ramble on about politics, sports, and entertainment and bad mouth every other radio station in town. Then rest of the day, it's more commercials and on-air "personalities" making crank phone calls to people using a tired, old recording of Evil Knievel's voice than it is music. My 40 minute drive home allowed me to hear one song, then commercials and DJ chatter for the remaining 35 minutes. And when a song is played, it is usually some severely overplayed song that I have likely heard twice already in the day!

At my wit's end, I turned to XM Radio's commercial free music programming. Within the first day of having it, I heard dozens of songs that I never heard on FM before. Furthermore, I could hear a dozen or more songs in the same time span that I could hear 2 or 3 on the FM stations.

One of the key features that really got me excited about XM Radio was the instant traffic and weather service. Although Atlanta was not yet on-line, I saw that it was planned for later this year. This came to me as a godsend. Being that Atlanta has some of the worst traffic in the nation, I often find myself stuck in traffic jams on the interstates, unaware of where the wreck or incident is. I have to fumble with the radio, flipping and scanning through the AM and FM bands to try to get a traffic report. When I do finally find one, I often miss the part about my side of town, or the report is 20 minutes old and does not make mention of the tie-up that I am sitting in. Frustrated and not knowing what to do, I turn the radio off (or turn to one of my favorite XM music channels!) and continue to sit in traffic until it moves again.

I have traveled recently to some of the areas where the XM traffic and weather service is on-line, such as Orlando, and have found the traffic information very helpful. I am confident that it will be a great help to me during my daily commute when the Atlanta service is up and running.

I urge you to reject the petition of the NAB, and allow the millions of metropolitan commuters to take advantage of this great service and to let the satellite radio services grow and thrive and not be stifled by the NAB.